

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 29-33 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 is amended herein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-28 are currently pending and under consideration.

II. OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

In item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the disclosure is objected to. The specification is amended herein to overcome the objection.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the objection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 AND 27 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY KAITE (USP# 6,016,046)

The present invention as recited in claim 1 (as amended herein) relates to a charging system comprising "an elastic member elastically deformable when the robot physically contacts the charger being angled against a docking direction."

Kaite teaches a battery pack, which comprises at least one rechargeable battery, a secondary coil which is magnetically coupled to a primary coil housed in a charging stand, and control circuit which controls power induced in the secondary coil and charges the rechargeable battery.

However, nothing in the Kaite reference teaches or suggests an elastic member that is elastically deformable when a robot physically contacts a charger being angled against a docking direction. According to the elastic member of the present invention, although the robot 20 physically contacts the charger 10 being angled against the docking direction, the protrusion 22 is properly accommodated in the protrusion accommodating part 16. Accordingly, the present invention has the advantage of maintaining the physical contact between the robot and the charger. It is submitted that Kaite does not teach or suggest the features in claim 1.

Claim 27 depends from claim 1 and distinguishes over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 29-33 are cancelled.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 2-26, 28, 31, AND 32 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(A)

Dependent claims 2-26, 28, 31, and 32 (depending, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1) recite patentably distinguishing features of their own, and further, are at least patentably distinguishing due to their dependencies from independent claim 1. For example, in contrast to Kaite and Shirai, dependent claim 2 provides, a first terminal part which comprises "a terminal member movable relative to the charger; and an elastic member interposed between the terminal member and the charger," and dependent claim 3 provides, a second terminal part which comprises "a terminal member movable relative to the charger; and an elastic member interposed between the terminal member and the charger." Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, it would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Kaite and Shirai to teach the features as recited in claims 2 and 3 of the present invention. There must be a suggestion or motivation in the references to make the combination or modification. MPEP § 2143.01.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

V. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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